Plan of Conservation and Development

Every ten years, the state of Connecticut requires all 169 municipalities to review their Plans of Conservation and Development (POCDs). For over a year, Woodstock's Planning and Zoning Commission has been reviewing the town's POCD (last updated in 2002) by hosting a series of meetings covering a wide range of focused topics.

What is a POCD? A Plan of Conservation and Development is a master-planning document used by local town governments to effect practical, common sense zoning and subdivision regulations that are used to help guide the growth, development and preservation of all aspects of a town. Based upon the POCD, new zoning regulations are sometimes drafted. For Woodstock, zoning regulations are the hands-on tools used to achieve the goals of its POCD. Before we create regulations and use them, we must first plan collectively for what we want to do.

Although Woodstock's Planning and Zoning Commission has the statutory responsibility to decide upon the town's final POCD document, the POCD does not belong solely to the Commission. It is a community-wide document that belongs to the public and to you. As such, we all share in working together toward a POCD that reflects what we need and want, that defines how we can achieve these goals, and that respects each individual person and acknowledges the community as whole in which we all live.

Updating our POCD is an opportunity for everyone in Woodstock to learn more about what is going on, to listen to and to learn from others with different perspectives, and to provide input for Woodstock's Planning and Zoning Commission to use in creating a new, comprehensive POCD.

Getting involved is easy. There is a survey online about the POCD until May 6th. It is easy to access and to use. Go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/woodstock_survey or get a paper copy through the Town Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer's office (860-963-2128, x332). Information about the POCD is available on the town's website (www.woodstockct.gov). Watch for upcoming POCD meetings and attend one or several of them. Share your concerns and ideas. Encourage others to attend and to participate.

Woodstock's Planning and Zoning Commission looks forward to updating the town's POCD. The POCD can include an inventory of the resources and demographics we have in Woodstock, which reflect the current states of these issues in our town. The POCD should be a proactive and forward-thinking document compromised of action plans focused on achievable, important goals. Woodstock's POCD is intended for use, dovetailing with the town's zoning regulations and methods of town planning.

Connecticut is developing an update to its state Conservation and Development Policies Plan (State C&D Plan), due in 2013, which will look at these issues from a regional point of view. Woodstock's Planning and Zoning Commission is involved in this project, allowing Woodstock to have its voice heard at the regional and

statewide levels, while still maintaining the unique importance of our town's POCD on the local level.

This letter to you is the first in a series of regular updates and communications from Woodstock's Planning and Zoning Commission. Our goal is straightforward: we want you to know what we are doing and we want to know what you think about it all.

Your involvement and input is valuable to us. Everyone is welcome to attend any or all Commission meetings. Regular monthly meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Thursday and Regulations Review Subcommittee meetings are held monthly on the 1st Thursday, usually starting at 7:30 PM in the Woodstock Town Hall. All agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the town's web site and are available through the Town Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer's office. If you cannot attend a meeting, then you can still participate by sending us a letter.

If you have any questions or comments, then please contact Woodstock's Planning and Zoning Commission at the Woodstock Town Hall.

Jeffrey A. Gordon, MD, Chairman

On behalf of the Woodstock Planning & Zoning Commission